

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast November 26th 2012

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/edmonton/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

ceasefire (to stop firing weapons)	<del>militants</del> (people fighting in a war)	citizens
fire (to shoot)	play an important role	respect
military	airstrikes (bombing from a plane)	cheering

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**Hamas – An Islamist political party that governs the Gaza Strip**

**Gaza – The Gaza strip is an area of Palestine, within the borders of Israel**

1. There are many ~~militants~~ on both sides of a war.
2. In any war it is important to protect the innocent \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Most countries have their own \_\_\_\_\_ to protect its borders.
4. It is difficult to protect people from \_\_\_\_\_, so they use a siren to warn the public when the planes are coming.
5. If both sides agree to a \_\_\_\_\_ then there should be no more fighting.
6. Both sides must \_\_\_\_\_ the rules they agreed on for the plan to work.
7. The man who \_\_\_\_\_ the gun was arrested by the police.
8. When the Oilers win we can hear the Edmonton crowd \_\_\_\_\_ loudly.
9. A teacher \_\_\_\_\_ in the lives of students.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Both the Israel's Prime Minister and Gaza's Hamas Prime Minister _____	a) welcome the ceasefire. b) end their agreement.
2. Israel and Gaza have been fighting for the past _____.	a) a long time b) eight days
3. Netanyahu says the ceasefire was successful _____	a) in stopping the fighting in the streets. b) in stopping rockets being fired from Gaza.
4. In Gaza people were _____ when they left their homes for the first time in a week.	a) cheering and singing b) laughing and shouting
5. The new government of _____ helped the two countries achieve a ceasefire.	a) Egypt b) Palestine
6. One thousand five hundred rockets hit _____ while there were 1 500 airstrikes on _____.	a) Gaza / Israel b) Israel / Gaza

### Discussion Question

Israel and Palestine have been fighting for decades, do you know why? Should the world get involved in wars between two countries?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
c	1. Tory	a) money used or needed to pay for something
	2. documents	b) to support someone against accusations
	3. moment	c) slang for the Progressive Conservative party
	4. fundraiser	d) a short period of time
	5. expenses	e) to express that someone acted incorrectly
	6. executive	f) to judge one's actions and decide on the appropriate response
	7. defend	g) important papers
	8. criticize	h) a person in a high position in a company or organization
	9. in place	i) an event that raises money for a cause
	10. to deal with	j) existing already

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who is the premier of Alberta?
2. Why has the premier had some difficult moments recently?
3. What did the CBC investigation discover about Lynn Redford?
4. What was Lynn Redford's job?
5. How did the premier respond to her sister's actions?
6. What does the premier say will deal with her sister's situation?

### Discussion Question

Why was it wrong for Lynn Redford to let the Calgary Health Region pay for her participation in a Tory fundraiser and barbeque? What would you do if your sibling (sister or brother) did something wrong?



### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

**Vocabulary** - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
glory – something that leads to public praise and fame
do battle – A competition between two teams
sizeable – very large, larger than usual
donate –to give money or goods to a charitable organization
food bank - A <i>food bank</i> is a charitable organization that collects and gives food to those who cannot afford to buy food

1. win. will be There of a lot glory for Toronto after the  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. championship. My son's did battle hockey team in the.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. medals. My grandfather sizeable of collection has a  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. donated We canned goods food bank. to the  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. food bank The needs rice and pasta. more  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ The mayors of Toronto and Calgary made a bet on the Grey Cup game.
2. \_\_\_\_ Toronto won the Grey cup game.
3. \_\_\_\_ The mayor of Toronto will donate 240 pounds of food to the Calgary food bank.
4. \_\_\_\_ Mayor Nenshi will have to wear a Toronto shirt to the next council meeting.
5. \_\_\_\_ The Toronto team is known as the Stampeders.
6. \_\_\_\_ The top prize in Canadian football is known as the Football Cup

### Discussion Question

**Have you ever watched a Canadian Football game? Did you watch the Grey Cup game? Why do you think the mayors made this bet?**

## Language Focus

### Identifying gerunds

**Gerund** – a verb ending in ‘ing’ that acts as a noun in a sentence.

When do we use gerunds?

- If we put two verbs beside each other usually the second verb is an infinitive (to + base form) but it can be a gerund. Only certain verbs can be followed by an infinitive or a gerund (like, love, want, enjoy, regret...)
- If there is a verb after a preposition, it will be a gerund.
- Gerunds can be the subject or the object of a sentence

To identify the gerund:

- Notice verbs ending in ‘ing’
- Decide if this verb is the continuous/progressive tense – is the ‘be’ verb before it?
- If the ‘be’ verb is not present, the word ending in ‘ing’ may be a gerund
- Be careful, the word could also be an adjective (boring, exciting...)

Let’s look at some examples from our listening. Can you identify which of these are gerunds, and why? *Answers are in the appendix.*

“Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Gaza’s Hamas Prime Minister, Ismail Haniyeh (IHS’-may-el hah-NEE’-yuh), are both **welcoming** the cease-fire that ended eight days of **fighting**.”

“Netanyahu says that the military action was successful in **stopping** rockets being fired from Gaza.”

“Gaza citizens came out from their homes after a week, **cheering and singing**.”

“During the **fighting**, which started November 14, Israel launched over 1,500 airstrikes on Gaza, while more than 1,500 rockets hit Israel.”

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	November 26th Weekly news stories	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Nirmala Naidoo. You're listening to Learning English with CBC news for November 26th.	0:00
Story 1	Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Gaza's Hamas Prime Minister, Ismail Haniyeh (IHS'-may-el hah-NEE'-yuh), are both welcoming the cease-fire that ended eight days of fighting. Haniyeh is telling militants to respect the ceasefire "as long as Israel respects it." Netanyahu says that the military action was successful in stopping rockets being fired from Gaza. Gaza citizens came out from their homes after a week, cheering and singing. The ceasefire was helped along by the new government of Egypt, which will also play an important role in keeping the peace. During the fighting, which started November 14 <sup>th</sup> , Israel launched over 1,500 airstrikes on Gaza, while more than 1,500 rockets hit Israel. In all, more than 160 Palestinians were killed, while six Israelis died.	00:10
Story 2	Alberta premier Alison Redford says there have been some difficult moments since her sister became the focus of stories in the news this week. A CBC investigation found documents that show Lynn Redford went to Tory fundraisers and even bought liquor for a Tory barbeque. Those expenses were then paid for by the Calgary Health Region. Lynn Redford was an executive with the health region at the time. The premier says Albertans wouldn't want her defend her sister or criticize her sister and that's why there are official systems in place to deal with things like that.	01:22
Story 3	There was a lot riding on this weekend's Grey Cup game, in addition to the glory of winning football's top prize. The mayors of the two cities, whose teams did battle on the field, had a bet off the field. You could call it a sizeable bet. The Calgary Stampeders lost to the Toronto Argonauts in Sunday's Grey Cup. The mayors of each city had agreed that the mayor of the losing city would donate his weight in food to the winning city's food bank. Calgary's Mayor Naheed Nenshi will now donate 240 pounds of food to the Toronto food bank. Also, the losing city's mayor, Nenshi, will wear the winning team's jersey to their next full city council meeting in Calgary.	02:15



## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

1. There are many militants on both sides of a war.
2. In any war it is important to protect the innocent citizens.
3. Most countries have their own military to protect its borders.
4. It is difficult to protect people from airstrikes, so they use a siren to warn the public when the planes are coming.
5. If both sides agree to a ceasefire then there should be no more fighting.
6. Both sides must respect the rules they agreed on for the plan to work.
7. The man who fired the gun was arrested by the police.
8. When the Oilers win we can hear the Edmonton crowd cheering loudly.
9. A teacher plays an important role in the lives of students.

#### Listening

1. Both the Israel's Prime Minister and Gaza's Hamas Prime Minister _____	a) <u>welcome the ceasefire.</u> b) end their agreement.
2. Israel and Gaza have been fighting for _____.	a) a long time b) <u>eight days</u>
3. Netanyahu says the ceasefire was successful _____	a) in stopping the fighting in the streets. b) <u>in stopping rockets being fired from Gaza.</u>
4. In Gaza people were _____ when they left their homes for the first time in a week.	a) <u>cheering and singing</u> b) laughing and shouting
5. The new government of _____ helped the two countries achieve a ceasefire.	a) <u>Egypt</u> b) Palestine
6. One thousand five hundred rockets hit _____ while there were 1 500 airstrikes on _____.	a) Gaza / Israel b) <u>Israel / Gaza</u>

### News story 2

Answer	Word	Definition
<b>c</b>	1. Tory	a) money used or needed to pay for something
<b>g</b>	2. documents	b) to support someone against accusations
<b>d</b>	3. moment	c) slang for the Progressive Conservative party
<b>i</b>	4. fundraiser	d) a short period of time
<b>a</b>	5. expenses	e) to express that someone acted incorrectly
<b>h</b>	6. executive	f) to judge one's actions and decide on the appropriate response
<b>b</b>	7. defend	g) important papers

e	8. criticize	h) a person in a high position in a company or organization
j	9. in place	i) an event that raises money for a cause
f	10. to deal with	j) existing already

### Listening

1. Who is the premier of Alberta? *Alison Redford (of the Progressive Conservative party)*
2. Why has the premier had some difficult moments recently? *Her sister has become the focus of stories in the news this week.*
3. What did the CBC investigation discover about Lynn Redford? *They discovered documents that showed she went to a Tory (Progressive Conservative) fundraiser and bought liquor for a Tory barbeque and had the expenses paid for by the Calgary Health Region.*
4. What was Lynn Redford's job? *She was an executive with the Calgary Health Region.*
5. How did the premier respond to her sister's actions? *The premiere did not defend or criticize her sister, because she said Albertans would not want her to.*
6. What does the premier say will deal with her sister's situation? *The premier said there are official systems in place to deal with the situation.*

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary

1. There will be a lot of glory for Toronto after the win.
2. My son's hockey team did battle in the championship.
3. My grandfather has a sizeable collection of medals.
4. We donated canned goods to the food bank.
5. The food bank needs more pasta and rice.

#### Listening

1. T The mayors of Toronto and Calgary made a bet on the Grey Cup game.
2. T Toronto won the Grey cup game.
3. F The mayor of Toronto will donate 240 pounds of food to the Calgary food bank.
4. T Mayor Nenshi will have to wear a Toronto shirt to the next council meeting.
5. F The Toronto team is known as the Stampeders.
6. F The top prize in Canadian football is known as the Football Cup



### Language Focus

"Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Gaza's Hamas Prime Minister, Ismail Haniyeh (IHS'-may-el hah-NEE'-yuh), **are** both **welcoming** the cease-fire that ended eight days of **fighting**."

*Welcoming – present continuous verb    fighting – gerund (following a preposition)*

"Netanyahu says that the military action was successful in **stopping** rockets being fired from Gaza."

*stopping – gerund (following a preposition)*

"Gaza citizens came out from their homes after a week, **cheering and singing**."

*Cheering and singing – gerund (following a preposition) Note: The main sentence without prepositional phrases is: Gaza citizens came out cheering and singing.*

"During the **fighting**, which started November 14, Israel launched over 1,500 airstrikes on Gaza, while more than 1,500 rockets hit Israel."

*Fighting – gerund (subject of the sentence)*